

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1269

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN

SUBJECT: PARA ANNEX II - USIS PROGRAMS

REFERENCE: STATE 050341

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. USIS, SINGAPORE, IS STAFFED BY FOUR AMERICAN OFFICERS AND A PART TIME AMERICAN SECRETARY. IN ADDITION TO ITS TRADITIONAL PRESS, INFORMATION AND CULTURAL FUNCTIONS, USIS LAST YEAR OPENED ITS RESOURCE CENTER, WHICH BOTH SYMBOLICALLY AND IN SUBSTANCE IS THE FOCAL POINT OF USIS, SINGAPORE, PROGRAMMING. THE RESOURCE CENTER IS A MODERN INFORMATION FACILITY DESIGNED FOR SMALL, HIGHLY LITERATE TARGET AUDIENCES, CONCENTRATING ON RELATIVELY FEW CONTEMPORARY ISSUES REFLECTING THE INTERSECTION OF AMERICAN AND SINGAPOREAN INTERESTS. IT CONSISTS OF FOUR DISTINCT COMPONENTS: THE THEMATIC COLLECTION (REPLACING THE FORMER USIS GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY), THE COMMERCIAL COLLECTION (REPLACING THE FORMER EMBASSY COMMERCIAL LIBRARY), THE AUDIO- VISUAL UNIT, AND A MODEST MULTI-MEDIA, MULTI- PURPOSE AUDITORIUM KNOWN AS " THE ROOM." EXPERIENCE OVER THE PAST NINE MONTHS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT BOTH USIS AND THE EMBASSY, THROUGH THE RESOURCE CENTER' S DAILY OPERATIONS PLUS THEMATIC PROGRAMMING HAVE INCREASED THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN

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REACHING KEY TARGET AUDIENCES; I. E., LEADERS OF GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, LABOR, MEDIA AND THE COMMUNITY. ALL RESOURCE CENTER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMING ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE COUNTRY INFORMATION OBJECTIVES AS DESCRIBED IN USIS, SINGAPORE'S CPM OF M CAMP.

4. SOME OPPONENTS CRITICIZE SELF-MANAGEMENT, SAID MARKOVIC, AND MAINTAIN THAT ORDER AND CENTRALIZATION MUST BE INTRODUCED. SUCH CRITICISM WOULD DENY THE ROLE OF SELF-MANAGEMENT BODIES AND SOCIAL-POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS BY CENTRALIZING EVERYTHING WITHIN THE PARTY, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE FOR YUGOSLAV SOCIETY.

5. "WE FAVOR ORDER", SAID MARKOVIC, "BUT SELF-MANAGEMENT ORDER". UNDEVELOPED SELF-MANAGEMENT, WEAKNESSES AND ABUSES WERE THE PROBLEM, HE ADDED.

6. MARKOVIC WENT ON TO BALANCE HIS REMARKS BY EMPHASIZING THE PREDOMINANT ROLE WHICH THE PARTY EXPECTS TO PLAY IN THE SOCIETY AND BY PLACING THE ACTIVITY OF SOCIAL-POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE SHADOW OF THE PARTY. THE PARTY SETS THE LINE, HE SAID, CONCLUDING THAT ANYTHING ELSE WOULD LEAD TO ANARCHY.

7. COMMENT: MARKOVIC'S REMARKS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN NOTED FOR THEIR BLANDNESS. UNDER SOME PRESSURE HIMSELF, THIS IS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED. INTERESTING, THEREFORE, THAT HE CHOSE TO TAKE ON UNIDENTIFIED HARD LINERS WHO PRESUMABLY ARE INTERESTED IN USING THE CURRENT POLITICAL MODE AND SITUATION TO THEIR ADVANTAGE. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT THIS AMORPHOUS GROUP IS OF REAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, MARKOVIC PROBABLY TILTING AT MORE THAN JUST WINDMILLS. HIS REMARKS INDICATE TOP LEADERSHIP AWARE OF DANGER OF GOING TOO FAR IN RESTORING PREDOMINANCE TO PARTY AND WEAKENING ROLE OF OTHER SOCIAL-POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND, INDEED, OF SELF-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN GENERAL.

TOON

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